

From the New York Evening Post.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VISIT TO NEW YORK IN 1860.

WHEN he came to New York to lecture in 1860, there was some confusion in the arrangements. He had at first been invited to appear in Brooklyn, but, upon deliberation, his friends thought it best that he should be heard in New York. Reaching the Astor House on Saturday, February 25th, he was surprised to find, by announcement in the public prints, that he was to speak at the Cooper Institute. He said he must review his address if it was to be delivered in New York. What he had prepared for Mr. Beecher's church folks might not be altogether appropriate to a miscellaneous political audience. Saturday was spent in a review of the speech, and on Sunday morning he went to Plymouth Church, where apparently he greatly enjoyed the service.

On Monday morning I waited upon him with several members of the Young Men's Republican Union into whose hands the preparations for the meeting at the Cooper Institute had chiefly fallen. We found him in a suit of black, much wrinkled from its careless packing in a small valise. He received us cordially, apologizing for the awkward and uncomfortable appearance he made in his new suit, and expressing himself surprised at being in New York. His form and manner were indeed very odd, and we thought him the most unprepossessing public man we had ever met.

I spoke to him of the manuscript of his forthcoming address, and suggested to him that it should be given to the press at his earliest convenience, that it might be published in full on the morning following its delivery. He appeared in much doubt as to whether any of the papers would care to print it, and it was only when I accompanied a reporter to his room and made a request for it, that he began to think his words were to be of interest to the metropolitan public. He seemed wholly ignorant of the custom of supplying slips to the different journals from the office first putting the address in type, and was charmingly innocent of the machinery so generally used, even by some of our most popular orators, to give success and *eclat* to their public efforts. The address was written upon blue foolscap, all in his own hand, and with few interlineations. I was bold enough to read portions of it, and had no doubt that its delivery would create a marked sensation throughout the country.

Mr. Lincoln referred frequently to Mr. Douglas, but always in a generous, kindly manner. It was difficult to regard them as antagonists. Many stories of the famous Illinois debates were told us, and in a very short time his frank, fluent and sparkling conversation won our hearts and made his plain face pleasant to us all.

During the day it was suggested that the orator should be taken up Broadway and shown the city, of which he knew but little, stating, I think, that he had been here but once before.

AN INCIDENT.

At one place he met an Illinois acquaintance of former years, to whom he said in his dry, good-natured way: "Well, B., how have you fared since you left Illinois?" To which B. replied, "I have made one hundred thousand dollars and lost all; how is it with you, Mr. Lincoln?" "Oh, very well," said Mr. Lincoln, "I have the cottage at Springfield and about \$8,000 in money. If they make me Vice-President with Seward, as some say they will, I hope I shall be able to increase it to \$20,000, and that is as much as a man ought to want."

INTRODUCTION TO MR. BANCROFT.

We visited a photographic establishment upon the corner of Broadway and Bleeker sts., where he sat for his picture, the first taken in New York. At the gallery he met and was introduced to George Bancroft, and had a brief conversation with that gentleman, who welcomed him to New York. The contrast in the appearance of the men was most striking — the one courtly and precise in his every word and gesture, with the air of a trans-Atlantic statesman; the other bluff and awkward, his every utterance an apology for his ignorance of metropolitan manners and customs. "I am on my way to Massachusetts," said he to Mr. Bancroft, "where I have a son at school, who, if report be true, already knows much more than his father."

From the gallery we returned to the Astor House, and found that the arrangements for his appearance at the Cooper Institute on the same evening (February 27th,) had been completed.

THE COOPER INSTITUTE ADDRESS.

Who that was present upon that occasion can forget it? A curiosity to see and hear the man who had dared

"To beard the lion in his den,
The Douglass in his hall,"

rather than the expectation of an oratorical or literary feast, had attracted a great audience. Upon the platform sat the Republican leaders of the city, and in the body of the hall there were many ladies. William Cullen Bryant, for whom Mr. Lincoln had during the day before expressed the highest admiration, took the chair, and introduced the speaker in a few graceful words: "It is a grateful office that I perform," said he, "in introducing to you an eminent citizen of the West, hitherto known to you only by reputation, who has consented to address a New-York assembly this evening."

The language of Mr. Bryant, and the editorial of the *EVENING POST* of the following day, expressing the wish that for the publication of such words of weight and wisdom as those uttered by Mr. Lincoln, the columns of that journal "were indefinitely elastic," were very pleasing to the "eminent citizen of the West."

Mr. Lincoln began his address at the Cooper Institute in a low, monotonous tone, but as he advanced, his quaint but clear voice rang out boldly and distinctly enough for all to hear. His manner was to a New-York audience a very strange one, but it was captivating. He held the vast meeting spell-bound, and as one by one his oddly expressed but trenchant and convincing arguments confirmed the accuracy and irrefragability of his political conclusions, the house broke out in wild and prolonged enthusiasm. I think I never saw an audience more thoroughly carried away by an orator. When he uttered the following sentence the cheering was tumultuous:

"I defy any one to show that any living man in the whole world ever did, prior to the beginning of the present century, (and I might almost say prior to the beginning of the last half of the present century,) declare that, in his understanding, any proper division of local from Federal authority, or any part of the constitution, forbade the Federal Government to control as to slavery in the Federal territories. To those who now so declare, I give, not only 'our fathers who framed the government under which we live,' but with them all other living men within the century in which it was framed, among whom to search, and they shall not be able to find the evidence of a single man agreeing with them."

His words to the South were pertinent, and in argument irresistible. Take these as specimens:

"And how much would it avail you if you could, by the use of John Brown, Helper's book, and the like, break up the Republican organization? Human action can be modified to some extent, but human nature cannot be changed. There is a judgment and a feeling against slavery in this nation, which cast at least a million and a half of votes. You cannot destroy that judgment and feeling—that sentiment—by breaking up the political organization which rallies around it. You can scarcely scatter and disperse an army which has been formed into order in the face of your heaviest fire; but if you could, how much would you gain by forcing the sentiment which created it out of the peaceful channel of the ballot-box into some other channel? What would that other channel probably be? Would the number of John Browns be lessened or enlarged by the operation?"

Even then, "with malice toward none, with charity for all," he exhorted the Republicans to moderate and cautious action:

"It is exceedingly desirable that all parts of this great Confederacy shall be at peace, and in harmony one with another. Let us Republicans do our part to have it so. Even though much provoked, let us do nothing through passion and ill temper. Even though the Southern people will not so much as listen to us, let us calmly consider their demands, and yield to them if, in our deliberate view of our duty, we possibly can. Judging by all they say and do, and by the subject and nature of their controversy with us, let us determine, if we can, what will satisfy them."

And his grand conclusion of a speech now historic was worthy his true and fearless heart. Let this sentence be graven upon his monument in letters of gold:

"Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government or of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Of the multitude that heard Mr. Lincoln that night, no thinking man or woman went away dissatisfied. To those already in sympathy with his views he had given strength and courage; to those doubting their wisdom he had presented arguments and facts not to be set aside. To all he had demonstrated an integrity and singleness of purpose, a knowledge of our Government from its origin, and a sagacity of statesmanship worthy the profoundest respect.

VISIT TO THE ATHÆNEUM CLUB.

From the Institute a few friends accompanied Mr. Lincoln to the rooms of the Athæneum Club, where we partook of a supper. All were delighted with the rude good humour of the guest, who was in excellent spirits over his success at the Institute. His jokes were many and mirth-provoking in the extreme. At a late hour we parted, impressed with the originality and excellence of his character. There was a magnanimity of bearing, an exposure of heart and an irrepressible humour altogether refreshing.

EFFECT OF THE SPEECH.

The Cooper Institute address will live as one of the noblest productions of Mr. Lincoln's pen. It had much to do with securing for him the nomination at Chicago; indeed many are of the opinion that it was the single effort that made him the successful candidate in the convention. Its simple yet masterly style, its new and powerful logic, its mild and unanswerable disposition of the great agitating questions of the hour, its breadth and depth of spirit and tender sincerity, its lofty and eloquent patriotism, made it an appeal to the people alike opportune and forcible.

It was circulated in many editions; by far the best being that supplied with copious and valuable notes by my friends Charles C. Nott and Cephas Brainerd, of this city. These gentlemen have often spoken to me of their surprise at the extensive reading and research which Mr. Lincoln must have made serviceable in its preparation. Some of the works consulted by him they were weeks in finding. The preface to their edition of the address bears this testimony to its remarkable character:

"No one who has not actually attempted to verify its details can understand the patient research and historical labour which it embodies. The history of our earlier politics is scattered through numerous journals, statutes, pamphlets and letters; and these are defective in completeness and accuracy of statement, and in indices and tables of contents. Neither can any one who has not travelled over this precise ground appreciate the accuracy of every trivial detail, or the self-denying impartiality with which Mr. Lincoln has turned from the testimony of 'the fathers' on the general question of slavery to present the single question which he discusses. From the first line to the last—from his premises to his conclusion, he travels with a swift, unerring directness which no logician ever excelled—an argument complete and full, without the affectation of learning and without the stiffness which usually accompanies dates and de-

tails. A single, easy, simple sentence of plain Anglo-Saxon words contains a chapter of history that in some instances has taken days of labour to verify, and which must have cost the author months of investigation to acquire. And though the public should justly estimate the labour bestowed on the facts which are stated, they cannot estimate the greater labour involved on those which are omitted—how many pages have been read—how many works examined—what numerous statutes, resolutions, speeches, letters and biographies have been looked through. Commencing with this address as a political pamphlet, the reader will leave it as an historical work—brief, complete, profound, impartial, truthful—which will survive the time and the occasion that called it forth, and be esteemed hereafter no less for its intrinsic worth than its unpretending modesty."

The labour bestowed by Messrs. Nott and Brainerd in their compilation, and the style in which the address was issued by them, through the Young Men's Republican Union, were highly gratifying to Mr. Lincoln. Speaking on the subject to a distinguished senator, he declared that no acts of his New York friends had pleased him so much.

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

It will be remembered that on his return from New England, where he made one or two striking addresses, he was in New York but a single day, the Sabbath. After the service had begun on the morning of that day, his tall figure was detected in a remote portion of one of the galleries of Plymouth Church, and it was with diffidence that he accepted an invitation to a more prominent position.

THE CANDIDACY.

During his hurried visit to New York and New England, he was frequently bantered as to the forthcoming Presidential nomination of the Republicans, the fact being apparent that he was the strong man of the West, but he showed no anxiety in the matter, and constantly expressed the opinion that the party wanted the nomination of Mr. Seward.

MR. LINCOLN AT HOME.

I did not see Mr. Lincoln again until late in January, 1861, when, at the instance of various friends in New York, who wished a position in the cabinet for a prominent Kentuckian, I went to Springfield, armed with documents for his consideration. I remained there a week or more, and was at

the Lincoln cottage daily; indeed, I must say in passing, that I felt more at home there than at the barren hotel, and was the more free in my visits from the kind consideration of Mrs. Lincoln, who joined her husband in the suggestion that hotel life was at best comfortless, and that while at Springfield I should escape it as much as possible by tarrying with them, at the same time regretting that their house was not large enough for the entertainment of all their friends.

The house at Springfield has often been described. In a letter published in the *EVENING POST* of February 1st, 1861, I referred to it in detail, and to the President's daily life and manners, which were little changed from that time to the hour of Booth's great crime. I asserted that "his purity of character and indomitable integrity of purpose added respect to admiration for his public and private career;" that upon his word you might "believe and pawn your soul;" and thus I prophesied his future success: "It is his sterling honesty, with utter fearlessness, even beyond his vast ability and political sagacity, that is to command confidence in his administration. He will refresh the polluted atmosphere of Washington with the aroma of virtue, integrity, and unbending patriotism."

Happy for the country that this was the case; that through years of temptation and distraction, amid unparalleled tumult and peril, he lived true to his pure and unselfish nature.

Of the numerous formal and informal interviews had at Springfield, I remember all with the sincerest pleasure. I never found the man upon whom the great responsibilities of a nation — upon the verge of civil commotion — had been placed, impatient or ill-humoured. The roughest and most tedious visitors were made welcome and happy in his presence; the poor commanded as much of his time as the rich. His recognition of old friends and companions in rough life, whom many, elevated as he had been, would have found it convenient to forget, was especially hearty. His correspondence was already immense, and the town was alive with Cabinet-makers and office-seekers, but he met all with a calm temper.

HIS PORTRAITS.

I fell into conversation with him upon the photographs of his face then before the public, and expressed a regret that I had found none that did him justice. He laughingly suggested that it might not be desirable to

have justice done to such forbidding features as his, but added that a likeness taken in Springfield a few days before was in his judgment, and that of his friends, the best ever had. Of that I procured four copies. From one of them the head of Mr. Lincoln on the ten-dollar treasury note was engraved, and that may, I think, be called the official likeness of our murdered chief. I was at Washington at the first inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, and saw much of him. It was difficult, even in view of the Baltimore plot, to make him think that any one sought to injure him, or that his life was in danger.

A CORRECTION.

The mention of that plot, by-the-by, suggests a correction of the common impression that Mr. Lincoln passed through Baltimore in disguise. The story of the Scotch cap and other changes in dress, over which his opponents were wont to make merry, was one of the ingenious inventions of a newspaper correspondent, since famous or infamous in connection with a more inexcusable fabrication.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

From the hour of his inauguration Mr. Lincoln devoted himself to the business of his great office with remarkable assiduity. While no other President had such varied and oppressive cares, none was ever so indifferent to relaxation. His friends were ever apprehensive of the breaking of his health, and his face at times became exceedingly haggard and worn; yet he never lost an opportunity to laugh or crack a joke.

My relations to his private secretaries during my residence in Washington (ending in the summer of 1863) were such that I was often at the White House late at night. On more than one occasion, while chatting with them, supposing the President to have retired, he came to the room and entered into lively and familiar conversation. Once, soon after I had made a canvass for Congress (1862) in this state, he congratulated me upon my vote, and took much pains to show what a variety of influences combined to insure the defeat of any one friendly to his administration.

When I told him, with a frankness which I knew he would like, that the more I advocated and defended his course the farther the people went from me, he laughed heartily, and commiserated me upon my identity with such an unpopular leader.

THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.

On the same occasion he talked at length of the battles of Antietam and South Mountain, and of the difficulty in accounting for the number of men upon the army rolls, yet not in action. He said he had a list of the men in the several corps, provided him by General McClellan, and that he also had a list of those who took part in the battle, and that there was a wonderful discrepancy, for which he could not account, except upon the ground that the men were let off by the company officers. He concluded by pronouncing it a most difficult matter to retain men, to put your finger upon them when needed. "They are like fleas," said he, "the more you shovel them up in the corner the more they get away from you."

THE ARIZONA APPOINTMENTS.

When John A. Gurley was made Governor of Arizona he went often to the White House to talk over that country and its necessities. After receiving the appointment of Secretary of the Territory, I accompanied him. The President took a lively interest in the labor before us, and contributed in every way to our assistance, telling Mr. Gurley jovially that while he could not be expected to send an army to Arizona, he would see that his scalp was properly protected. He went so far as to endorse the orders to military authorities, and others upon our route, and in emphatic words requested them to be particular in their attentions. He was much interested in the reports from the mines, and said to one of our number: "Tell the miners I hope to visit them and dig some gold and silver after the war."

Upon the sudden death of Mr. Gurley, which he much deplored, I went with one of the judges of Arizona to ask the appointment of Mr. Goodwin, then chief justice of the territory, to the vacancy. We were at the White House by 8 A. M., while William, the colored servant who had attended Mr. Lincoln from Springfield, was in the act of shaving him. He looked up and said: "Is it the best judgment of you all (referring to the territorial officers) that Mr. Goodwin should be appointed?" Being told that it was, and that prompt action in the matter was important, that the starting of our party, already delayed, might not be seriously retarded, he said: "Well, see the members of the Cabinet, and we will try to fix it at the meeting at noon to-day." It was so fixed, and at two o'clock we had the new Governor's commission from the State Department.

When suggesting that the appointment of Mr. Goodwin would leave the chief justiceship of the territory vacant, the President quickly said that he had a man for that place, and begged that we would not name any one. "It is Grimes's man," said he, "and I must do something for Grimes. I have tried hard to please him from the start, but he complains, and I must satisfy him if possible." And so Grimes's man, Mr. Turner, of Iowa, was made chief justice.

This prompt action suggests the remark, that while the late President was counted slow in his conclusions, he could and would, if in his judgment it was necessary, decide upon the instant, and that his delay was generally in awaiting the facts connected with the case under consideration, rather than in coming to a decision.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

He has by many been thought a slow and doubting writer. I think this an error. I have it from a gentleman who rode with him to Gettysburg, that upon nearing that place he asked what he should say at the ceremony on the morrow, stating that he had made no preparation whatever, and that the occasion was a novel and difficult one. The touching address which will forever tenderly connect his name with Gettysburg and its honored heroes must have been written in the small hours of the morning of the day upon which it was delivered. It is in few words, but what could have been more appropriate?

It is not too much to believe that the writings of Mr. Lincoln will, like those of Washington, contribute to his fame to a degree which those about him had not expected. They bear a marked resemblance in their sound and comprehensive sense, their direct and severe logic, and in all but their peculiar quaintness of expression, to the productions of "the father of his country."

HIS ADMIRATION OF BURNS.

Mr. Lincoln was an enthusiastic admirer of Robert Burns, always having a copy of his poems by him, and reading them with delight. There was something in the humble origin of Burns and in his checkered life, no less than in his tender, homely songs, that appealed to the great heart of the plain man, who, transferred from the prairies of Illinois to the Executive mansion at Washington, at a time of immense responsibility, gave a fresh and memorable illustration of the truth that

"The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that."

R. C. McCORMICK.

NEW YORK CITY, April 29, 1865.

From the Spectator, 15th April.

CANADIAN CLOUDS.

THERE must be something underneath all this Canadian business not yet fully understood in this country. The programme is breaking down in every direction. The original idea was that the British Colonies of America, conscious of national aspirations, but amazed, if not disgusted, by the changes in the neighbouring republic, would endeavour to found a new nationality of their own. That nationality, at first protected by great Britain and afterwards strictly allied with her, would be to North America much such a country as Russia is to Europe, cold perhaps, and comparatively poor, but with a hardy population, a separate, and on the whole a great national life. There will probably be in a few years some eight millions of Canadians; and eight millions of men sprung from English parents, and speaking, most of them, the English language, would it was thought constitute a nation unlikely to be beguiled into union with any other State, and exceedingly dangerous to attack. Such a nation even at first could maintain a moderate army or man a reserve fleet, and come to some definite agreement with the mother country upon the subject of external defence. The plan seemed to march excellently well. The delegates of the different provinces met in meetings, secret and therefore confidential, accepted the plan in principle, agreed to certain details, effected compromises upon certain others, and in the end unanimously signed a constitution which, though imperfect upon one point, was received in England with a sort of rapture of applause. The entire press spoke well of it. Every member of Parliament who has opened his lips has praised it. The Queen was advised to accept it, if not with cordiality, at least with heartiness. Mr. Cardwell poured out his soul in a despatch full of the softest praise. It was understood that an Act converting the sketch of a constitution into law would be passed this session, and all Englishmen congratulated the "Acadians" on their choice between their only two alternatives—a separate national existence, and absorption into the somewhat heavily taxed and ambitious

Union. The Ministry assured the world that the Canadians being desirous of remaining within the Empire, Her Majesty's Government intended to fight for them, and even proposed a grant of money, not indeed sufficient to fortify Canada, but ample to find comfortable quarters for that British sentry whose legal existence in Canada or anywhere else pledges the whole power of the Empire to defend him. After three separate debates, in which the most extreme views on all sides were openly discussed, the House of Commons endorsed by a vote of seven to one the Ministerial promise, and journalists of all parties affirmed with the full assent of the nation that Great Britain, rather than abandon Canada, if she wished not to be abandoned, would risk a serious war.

The prospect has been very speedily overcast, or, as some of our Radical friends would say, has very rapidly brightened. The Confederation scheme, which was an integral part of the plan, the colonies not being a nation unless united by some Federal bond, though approved by England, framed by local delegates, and accepted by almost every governing man in the colonies, proved not to be to the popular taste. The Government of New Brunswick appealed to the people, and the people, whose delegates had accepted the Constitution, elected out of forty-one members thirty pledged to reject it. The Nova Scotians then drew back and proposed a separate union of the maritime provinces; the population of Prince Edward's Island are known to be only restrained by their leaders from following the same course, and the Montreal papers now give the following as the true state of affairs:—Two colonies out of five have resolved to reject the scheme, a third will only yield on social compulsion, in Lower Canada the masses are opposed, and in Upper Canada the feeling in favour of it is rapidly dying away. We should have thought these statements were party exaggerations, dictated by dislike of Mr. Brown, the Anglo-Saxon advocate of the scheme, but that it is evident the vote of Parliament for the fortification of Quebec, with its attendant demand for Canadian outlay on defences, has been received with profound irritation. Mr. Macdonald, member of the Cabinet, from his place in Parliament, affected to consider the telegram a blunder, a cypher having been omitted from the vote. Mr. Galt stated positively that the quarter of a million voted by Canada for armaments would only be raised on the strength of